

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (original): A moisture retention polymer compound comprising a structural unit including a multi-branched polysaccharide derivative in which the hydroxyl group (OH) may be substituted by OR wherein R represents a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon having 1 to 30 carbon atoms, or a hydrocarbon having 1 to 30 carbon atoms and a hetero atom, and a structural unit without a multi-branched polysaccharide derivative.
2. (original): The moisture retention polymer compound according to claim 1, wherein the main chain of the polymer compound consists of a structural unit including a multi-branched polysaccharide derivative.
3. (original): The moisture retention polymer compound according to claim 2, which is a polymer compound obtained by copolymerization of a multi-branched polysaccharide derivative having at least two hydroxyl groups and a dicarboxylic acid and/or a diisocyanate.
4. (original): The moisture retention polymer compound according to claim 1, having a structural unit including a multi-branched polysaccharide derivative in the side chain of the polymer compound.

5. (original): The moisture retention polymer compound according to claim 4, which is a polymer compound obtained by reacting a polymer compound having a carboxyl group and/or an isocyanate group in the main chain with the hydroxyl group (OH) of the multi-branched polysaccharide derivative.

6. (currently amended): The moisture retention polymer compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the multi-branched polysaccharide derivative is a polymer including as a monomer an anhydrosaccharide and/or an anhydrosaccharide derivative with at least one of the hydroxyl groups (OH) of the anhydrosaccharide being substituted by OR wherein R represents a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon having 1 to 30 carbon atoms, or a hydrocarbon having 1 to 30 carbon atoms and a hetero atom.

7. (original): The moisture retention polymer compound according to claim 6, wherein the anhydrosaccharide or the anhydrosaccharide portion of the anhydrosaccharide derivative is at least one kind selected from the group consisting of 1,6-anhydrosaccharide, 1,4-anhydrosaccharide, 1,3-anhydrosaccharide, 1,2-anhydrosaccharide, and 5,6-anhydrosaccharide.

8. (currently amended): The moisture retention polymer compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~, in which the branching degree of the multi-branched polysaccharide derivative is 0.05 to 1.00.

Preliminary Amendment

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9. (currently amended): The moisture retention polymer compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~, wherein solubility of the polymer compound in water, ethanol or a mixed solution of water and ethanol is 1.0% by mass or higher.

10. (currently amended): A moisturizer comprising a polymer compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~.

11. (currently amended): An external preparation for skin comprising 0.1 to 99.9% by mass of a polymer compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~.

12. (original): A cosmetic product containing the moisturizer according to claim 10.

13. (original): A cosmetic product containing an external preparation for skin according to claim 11.